CLAIMS

1. A method for the production of zinc flake from zinc particles which comprises dry milling said zinc particles using a mixture of a fluorocarbon lubricant and a stearate lubricant, optionally in admixture with a hydrophobic inorganic powder.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the zinc particles used have a particle size of from1 to 40 microns.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the zinc particles used in the form of zinc dust and have a particle size of from1 to 15 microns.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said dust has a particle size of 4 to 6 microns.

5. A method as claimed in 1, wherein the fluorocarbon lubricant is PTFE

6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fluorocarbon lubricant is present in an amount of from 1 to 5 weight percent based on the weight of zinc.

7. A method as claimed in 1, wherein stearate lubricant is lithium stearate.

8. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stearate is present in an amount which is less than the amount of fluorocarbon lubricant.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the stearate is present in an amount of from one third to two thirds of the amount of fluorocarbon lubricant.

10. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said hydrophobic inorganic powder is hydrophobic fumed silica.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said hydrophobic inorganic particles are present in an amount of from 0.1 to 0.5 based on the amount of fluorocarbon lubricant.

12. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said zinc particles are milled for a sufficient period to produce flakes having an average diameter of from 10 to 15 microns and a thickness of from 1 to 2 microns.

13. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the fluorocarbon lubricant is PTFE.

14. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the stearate is present in an amount which is less than the amount of fluorocarbon lubricant.

15. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the fluorocarbon lubricant is PTFE and the stearate lubricant is lithium stearate.

16. A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein a hydrophobic inorganic powder is present and is hydrophobic fumed silica.

17. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the zinc is mixed or alloyed with nickel.